

THE UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA LIBRARY  
1909–1979

by Bruce Peel



EX LIBRIS  
UNIVERSITATIS  
ALBERTENSIS

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Bryan-Gruhn  
Anthropology  
Collection

Cover: The main reading room,  
Rutherford South Library,  
Photograph, Roy Barter.

History of  
THE UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA LIBRARY  
1909–1979  
by Bruce Peel

Edmonton, September, 1979

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## HISTORY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA LIBRARY

### BEGINNINGS

In 1909 when the University of Alberta opened its doors, the Senate allocated the sum of \$5,000 to purchase books for the library. Premier A. C. Rutherford, who had shepherded the university bill through the provincial legislature, and who was himself a bibliophile, wrote to request gifts of books from the Library of Parliament, the premiers of Quebec and Manitoba, and from Lord Strathcona, the Canadian High Commissioner in London. (The University was located in what was then the town of Strathcona.) Through gift and purchase the Library had acquired a collection of 6,000 books by 1911. Three years later the collection was described in the university calendar as containing nearly 12,000 books. During the first decade, references to book acquisition would suggest that about a thousand books were added annually at an average cost of \$2.00 per volume. By 1920-21 the Library had 17,000 volumes, and in May 1925 the number was 26,438.

### FIRST LIBRARIAN

The first Librarian was Miss Eugenie Archibald, B.A., who held the position from 1909 to 1911. The following year Mr. Cecil Race, the Registrar, was Acting Librarian. In 1912 Mr. Frank Gresty Bowers, M.A. (Oxon.), was appointed Librarian, a position he held for eight years.

### SECOND LIBRARIAN

Mr. Bowers was born in 1863 in Chester, England, and after graduating from Worcester College, Oxford, taught at Kingswood School at Bath for eight years. Later he accepted a headmastership at Nassau in the Bahamas, taught in Toronto, and in 1907 came west with his family to accept a post in the attorney-general's department of the new province of Alberta. Known as a book lover and himself in possession of an extensive private library, he was appointed University Librarian.\* After suffering ill-health for some years he died on January 25, 1921.

The first library reading room was no doubt established in the Duggan St. (now Queen Alexandra) public school, where university classes were first held. In 1911 Athabasca Hall, a combined residence and teaching building, opened its doors, with the Library domiciled on the third floor; to quote Dr. Alexander, "The library was on the floor nearest heaven—such a getting up stairs!"\*\*

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\*"An appreciation of F. G. Bowers," by Dean Kerr, *The Trail*, v.1, 1921, p. 9.

\*\*Alexander, W. H. *The University of Alberta; a retrospect, 1908-1929*, p. 11.

## **IN THE ARTS BUILDING**

The new Arts Building, when it opened in 1915, provided an attractive oak-paneled reading room (Room 110) with a seating capacity of eighty, and with a stack room on the ground floor below; in the early period the reading room also had an alcove in the south end for periodicals. The new quarters were no doubt considered an extravagant provision of space, but a book collection keeps growing, and in less than a decade the Library was overflowing its stacks.

## **LIBRARY COMMITTEE**

A "Committee on the Library," as it was first called, was formed about 1915, having as its membership, in addition to the Librarian, President Tory and Professors Alexander, MacEachran, and Sheldon. The formation of the Committee likely coincided with the opening of the Library in the Arts Building. About 1920, the membership of the Committee on the Library was increased.

The first committee minutes extant are dated May 27, and are for either 1919 or 1920, as no year is given. At a meeting held on December 22, 1920, President Tory reported that "Mr. Bowers' health was very precarious, and it was not quite clear yet how long it would be before he would be back in the Library." On May 3, 1921, the minutes record that "the President briefly referred to the death of Mr. Bowers and the appointment of Mr. Cameron to the librarianship."

## **EARLY GIFTS**

Through the years the records contain references to gifts of books to the Library. The first description of the Library, as contained in the university calendar, states that a special feature of the collection was the books on Canadian history donated by Dr. A. C. Rutherford. Many years later his private library was to form the strength of our Canadiana collection and the beginning of our rare book room. In 1915 a valuable gift of books on Anglo-Saxon literature and general English literature was donated by Miss Marian Gill. The next year a resolution passed by the Committee on the Library thanked Mr. E. F. Slocock for a copy of the Shakespeare Tercentenary Memorial Volume, specially bound and stamped with the seal of the University.

## **CAMERON ERA**

The next phase in the development of the University Library should perhaps be called the Cameron era, for Mr. Donald Ewing Cameron held the position of Librarian from 1921 to 1945. Elsewhere tribute has been paid to his scholarship, his searching mind, and his influence on academic colleagues and university students alike.\* During his long years of

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\*Macdonald, John, *The New Trail*, v.5, 1947, pp. 266-269.

administration, external conditions were to dictate the development of the Library. There was the period of prairie drought and economic depression which darkened the decade of the Thirties, and then came World War II. But first must be written the story of the quiet progress of the 1920's and the plans for a new library building.

### **LIBRARY FEE**

Being a canny Scot, Mr. Cameron early looked into the matter of finance, and would seem to have introduced two features of the book budget which were to remain for many years. The first was the levy of a fee of \$5.00 per student upon registration; the fee was first levied in 1922. This remained the source of the book fund until 1958-59. The second was the establishment of the principle that at the end of the fiscal year the unspent portion of the book fund be retained by the Library as a reserve fund; this was necessary because the revenue was received in the middle of the fiscal year. Both these measures were to give the acquisition program greater stability.

### **BOOK FUND DEPLETED**

A story is told that in the early 1920's the Librarian was absent for a few weeks, and that during his absence one of the science departments presented an argument for immediately ordering a famous set of scientific books, and obtained the President's approval. When the Librarian returned he found that the set had been ordered, and since the cost approximated the total revenue from students' fees, the book fund had been depleted for the year.

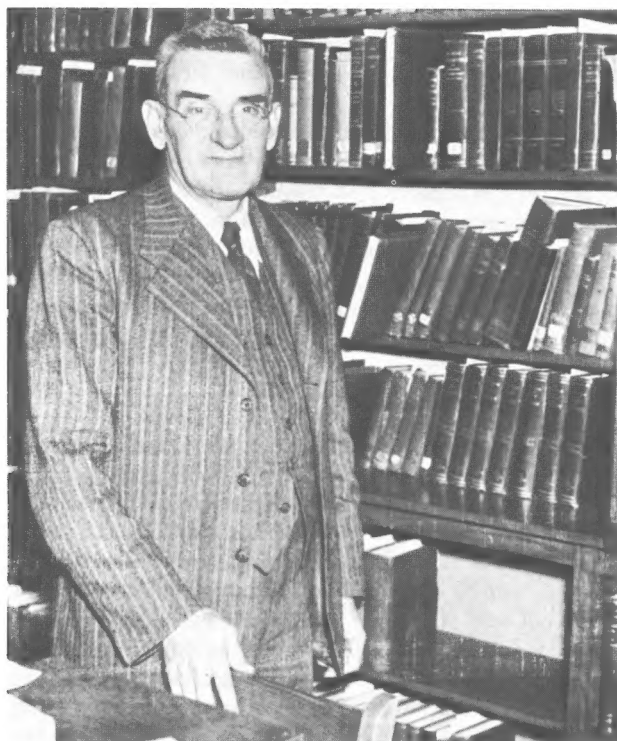
One year the whole of the book fund was needed to purchase books and reports for the law school.

By 1928 accessions had reached 30,000, and by 1932, 45,085 volumes. In 1928 the Edmonton Academy of Medicine transferred its collection of medical books to the University, an event of significance in the library operation because since then the medical library of the University has assumed responsibility for service to medical practitioners in the city and province.

### **SPACE PROBLEMS**

A continuing theme running through Mr. Cameron's annual reports was the problem of space for books and readers in the Library. With makeshift arrangements by which the Library carried on from year to year, nearly a quarter of a century was to elapse before the space problem was solved with the opening of the Rutherford Library in 1951, and that would not be in Mr. Cameron's lifetime. Presumably because of the inadequacy of the space within the Library in the Arts Building, by 1922 medical and agriculture reading rooms had been set up in other areas. The following year a new reading room was opened in the Arts Building, for law students. The

Frank Gresty Bowers,  
1912-1921



Donald Ewing Cameron,  
1921-1945

Marjorie Sherlock, 1945–1955



Bruce Braden Peel, 1955

first report of the Librarian, covering the fifteen months ending in March 1928, states that "there has been great pressure on the space available for readers; in the morning there has often been no place to sit." To this the President of the University, in speaking of the pressing needs of the institution, added that "the overcrowding [in the Library] necessary to accommodate the students, even in part, has made the ventilation problem, always a difficult one, almost insupportable." The President, speaking also of overcrowding in teaching buildings, said that relief would best be obtained by the erection of a library building to house as well the extension services, the Law School, and senior classes in English and history.

## **LIBRARY BUILDING REQUESTED**

The rise and fall of the idea of a separate library building may be traced through the reports of the Board of Governors. In 1928 it was accepted that the next building on the campus must be a library. The following year President Wallace said that the building of a library could not be delayed longer:

*Relief will be obtained in all directions by the new library building, planned to meet the temporary needs of the University in the directions indicated, as well as the permanent need of the University for a modern library building, and ultimately to be devoted wholly to that end. The position which it is planned that the new building occupy—facing west on the main University thoroughfare between the Arts building and the residences—is a central position among the University buildings, and all departmental libraries may be consolidated in the building without inconvenience, and with a relief of space to the departments concerned.*

(Thirty-four years later the Cameron Library opened on this site.)

In his next report, March 1930, the President wrote:

*The library building asked for last year is an urgent necessity. Not only is the library much overcrowded and quite inadequate for the needs of the University as it now is, but relief will be obtained in the library building for the Extension Department, now very unsatisfactorily housed, and for the Applied Science courses for which 7,000 square feet of floor space will be set aside in the library building temporarily for drafting room purposes. It is unnecessary to elaborate a situation which is critical.*

The following year, 1931, with the Depression deepening, the President wrote:

*The Government did not feel justified in view of the economic conditions in voting capital in whole or in part for the library building. It has been necessary to endeavour to carry on.*

The reaction of the Librarian to carrying on indefinitely in overcrowded quarters is set out in a letter to the President after he had been given the bad news.

*I do not find myself this morning quite as staunch a stoic as I tried to be yesterday, and feel somewhat as a man does who has been running around for a bit without knowing that he has been shot.*

At the end of 1933, a last effort was made to obtain a library building. President Wallace reported that the Carnegie Corporation had given a grant to the University of \$50,000 to further some single project of value to the institution.

*After careful consideration had been given to the matter, it was decided that if by means of the grant impetus could be given to the plan to erect a library building, a service of first importance would be rendered to the whole institution in relieving the greatly congested quarters which now serve for stacks and reading room purposes. The possibility was explored of utilizing part of the relief funds which the federal authorities were to grant to the province for building purposes to aid in the erection of the library building, and of using the \$50,000 grant to assist in the project. A decision was reached at Ottawa, however, that this fund would not be applied in any province to university buildings. As no provincial funds were available, it was necessary, though with reluctance, to abandon the plan of a library building in connection with the grant ...*

## **COLLECTION DURING THE DEPRESSION**

During the Depression years of the 1930's, when retrenchment was the order of the day, it is surprising that the Library continued to develop its book collection steadily. Between 1930 and 1939 the Library added about 25,000 volumes, for by the latter year accessions numbered 67,082. The book fund was derived from a fee of \$5.00 levied on each student at registration. Consequently, revenue from this source remained fairly constant, at a time when the money voted by the provincial legislature for the operation of the University was reduced in two years from \$588,388 to \$375,000. At the beginning of the Depression period the Librarian refers in his annual report of 1931-32 to the building up of back files of journals from grants the university administration had made for this purpose in recent years. In 1932, when the

Depression was at its worst, the Carnegie Corporation made a grant of \$15,000 available over a three-year period for the purchase of books.

The Librarian, in his report for 1932-33, says as follows:

*An outstanding event of the year was the visit of Mr. Hugh C. Gourlay,\* representing the Carnegie Corporation of New York, in the early part of the summer. Mr. Gourlay spent a few days with us, and following on his report the Canadian Advisory Committee of Carnegie Corporation recommended that we be awarded a portion of the grant being made to College Libraries. In December the University received the first instalment of a sum of \$15,000 to be paid in three yearly parts for the purchase of books to reinforce the Library, with particular attention to the work of the Arts College. This munificent gift has greatly stimulated the Library, and will be of greatest value to us.*

## SPACE

Throughout the decade the Librarian's constant theme was the problem of space for readers and book storage, and various emergency measures taken. Some time during this period the Library began housing its less-used books and bound periodicals in an underground passageway known as the wind tunnel; here they became impregnated with grit and sand.

## WAR AND THE BOOK TRADE

The disruption of the acquisition program during World War II is mentioned in each annual report. Mr. Cameron commented as follows on the book trade in 1941:

*Under war conditions many difficulties have to be met. Deliveries are slower everywhere, and in the case of British books there is often a long delay, and as a result an unusually large portion of book orders placed during the year remain unfilled. In some cases publishers lost their stock of books in print, and both stock and records of our London agents were destroyed. This loss in particular has involved an exceptional dislocation of the flow of books to us, and made necessary the repetition, after long delays of missing orders, and the restoration by us from our records of all details lost in London. As an effect of wartime restrictions, no steel shelving can at present be bought by us, and our stock is at a low ebb.*

*Restrictions continue in effect regarding books and journals from enemy-occupied countries, but arrangements are being made by libraries on this continent to restore our holdings of these, at least as far as they can later be made available in microfilm reproduction.*

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\*Mr. Gourlay later became Librarian of the Edmonton Public Library.

And, as in every annual report the Librarian wrote, there is a problem of space.

*The pressure on the Library space continues, and the problem of finding room for books is always with us, and adds greatly to the routine work of the staff.*

## **POST WAR ERA BEGINS**

Writing his last report in the spring of 1945, Mr. Cameron made reference to two events which were to dominate the next few years; the first was that the Edmonton Normal School library came under the direction of the University Librarian, since the Faculty of Education was assuming responsibility for all teacher training in the province; the second was that the Librarian had conferred with an architect on the planning of a library building.

## **RETIREMENT**

In September 1945, Mr. Cameron terminated his long career as Librarian. The next annual report paid this tribute to him:

*Mr. Cameron will be greatly missed, by the students, by his colleagues of the faculty, and by the general public throughout the province. His wide scholarship and intimate knowledge of books, and his immense kindness and interest in people made him counsellor and friend as well as Librarian, and his departure from the Library leaves a gap which can never be wholly filled.*

## **SHERLOCK DECADE**

The next period of the Library's development was the Marjorie Sherlock decade. To the position she brought charm, imagination, administrative competence, and the ability to obtain co-operation from everyone. Born in Lethbridge and a graduate of the University of Alberta, she had begun her library career at the University of Saskatchewan. The latter library had also obtained a grant from the Carnegie Foundation for book acquisition, but on the condition that the library abandon its home-made classification and hire a competent cataloguer. Miss Sherlock was the first cataloguer. Later she was chief cataloguer at Queen's University, from which institution she came as Librarian to the University of Alberta in 1945.

Miss Sherlock's first months as Librarian were hectic ones. With the influx of veterans, university enrolment swelled to the unprecedented figure of 3,300 students, and for these there were only 285 seats in the libraries; new reading-study areas were set aside. Then the Education libraries in Calgary and Edmonton, which had been in temporary quarters during the war, with many of their books in storage, had to be moved and thousands of books shelved in the month between summer session and the beginning of the fall

term; many volumes in these libraries were catalogued over the next few years. And there was the planning of a new library building.

## **ACADEMIC STATUS AND SALARIES**

In the spring of 1946 Miss Sherlock persuaded the university administration to grant librarians academic status, thus enabling them to enjoy tenure, pensions, travel, and other fringe benefits on the same basis as professional staff. In this the Library led other university libraries by at least two decades.

In 1945 a professional librarian with some years of experience received \$1,140 per year; the following year the lowest-paid librarian received \$1,600, and during the year government legislation made payment compulsory of a cost-of-living bonus to meet the rising costs after the ceiling was taken off prices. This bonus feature of university salaries remained in force until 1957. By comparison, the beginning salary for inexperienced professional librarians at the University of Alberta multiplied over ten times in the thirty years after 1945.

## **CALGARY LIBRARY**

In Calgary the Education Library was reclassified in the Dewey scheme by staff sent from Edmonton during the summers of 1947 and 1948. In the former year six courses in Arts were introduced at Calgary, the beginning of the expansion of the curriculum and the development of the present University of Calgary. Until the spring of 1960, all ordering and cataloguing of books for the Calgary library was done by the processing departments in Edmonton. Because of the changed emphasis in the curriculum the collection in Calgary was again reclassified, this time in the Library of Congress scheme; the project was begun in 1958 and completed in 1960. The library by 1963 was operated completely independently of the University of Alberta, and for the first time since 1944, the report of the Librarian to the University for 1963-64 did not include that of Calgary.

## **EDUCATION LIBRARY**

The Education Library in Edmonton, when taken over, consisted of about 13,000 volumes of which perhaps 3,000 were uncatalogued. For the next several years the library was confined to one room, Room 218 on the main floor of the Education Building. Its stacks were crowded together and its four reading tables were jammed against the circulation desk. In the summer of 1955 this library expanded downward and upward to other floors, but the communications were so poor between the floors that the operation was most awkward.

## **THE FIRST LIBRARY BUILDING**

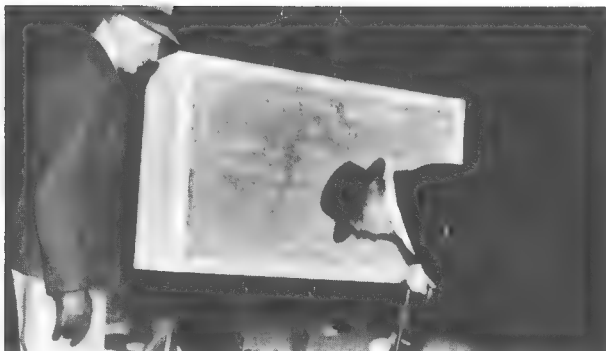
On November 25, 1948, the Honorable John Campbell Bowen, Lieutenant-Governor of Alberta, laid the cornerstone of the new library building. The ceremony had been preceded by 48 hours of anxiety for university officials, as the engraved stone disappeared from the site during the night. When the one-man campus security force failed to locate the missing stone, the President called upon the Faculty of Engineering to manufacture a facsimile out of wooden slabs covered with fast-drying cement. A telephone tip an hour before the ceremony led to the recovery of the cornerstone in the alley behind the Tuck Shop. Years later a solid citizen of Calgary gleefully narrated to the Librarian the inside story of the cornerstone caper.

Excavation began in the summer of 1948, with completion of the building scheduled for the following year. Unfortunately in post-war Canada there was an acute shortage of steel, and delivery of beams was delayed excessively long. The next completion target was the summer of 1950, but then, owing to delays in the delivery of hardwoods, the target was moved to December 1950. The building was completed three months later. In May 1951, the book collections from the various reading rooms and offices about the campus were moved to the new Rutherford Library. The 150,000 volumes were moved in eight days.

## **RUTHERFORD LIBRARY OPENED**

The new Library was named in honor of Dr. A. C. Rutherford, first premier of the province, and long-time chancellor of the University. The opening ceremony was held on May 15 in the reference reading room, with 600 guests and members of the faculty present. The special speaker on this occasion was Dr. R. C. Wallace, principal of Queen's University, and formerly president of the University of Alberta. This ceremony was followed by a three-day open house during which an estimated 5,000 people were conducted over the building by members of the library staff. As the first new building on the campus, and one of the newest post-war public buildings in the city, the beautiful library building attracted a great deal of attention.

In settling into the new building there were initially many policy decisions to be made and regulations to be formalized; as these had been carefully thought out, the regulations and service pattern remained fairly constant for the decade of the 1950's. With the move to the Rutherford Library, the Circulation Department was separated for the first time from the Reference Department, with the latter retaining periodicals, binding, and other special services; the responsibility for periodicals was divided between the Reference and Order Departments until the Periodicals Department was set up ten years later. In 1952, the Library introduced fines on reserve books. In 1953, with the institution of courses in geography, the Library began its map collection; a dozen



On November 25, 1948, the Honorable John Campbell Bowen, Lieutenant Governor of Alberta, laid the cornerstone of the first library building.

In 1951 construction on Rutherford Library was completed.





A mural by H. G. Glyde, depicting early Alberta history, decorates the south wall of the main reading room.



Library staff on the steps of the new Library, May 1951.

years later the extensive collection was transferred to the teaching department. In 1954, the position of Assistant Librarian was created.

#### **LIBRARY COMMITTEE AND SUB-COMMITTEE**

In 1950, the Library Committee was reorganized after a lapse of some years. The Committee consisted of all the deans, and of members of the Library Sub-Committee, an inner group that met more frequently and was responsible for giving the Librarian advice on problems as they arose. Dr. H. R. Thornton, head of the Department of Dairying, was the long-time chairman of the Library Sub-Committee. Often the chairman would bring to the meetings ice cream from the department's refrigerator, and thus developed the custom of serving refreshments at the meetings of this Committee. Perhaps it was this feature that caused many retiring members to say that they had never enjoyed committee work more.

#### **RECLASSIFICATION**

On April 8, 1952, the Cutter classification, inadequate and outdated, was officially discontinued and new books in all subjects were classified in the Library of Congress scheme. This was the beginning of a reclassification project which was expected to take four years but actually took five to complete, and for which the Board of Governors initially voted \$28,000, and for the fifth year a supplementary grant of \$9,000. The Cataloguing Department was augmented by one professional cataloguer, one clerical, and part-time student help; during the project about 100,000 volumes were reclassified. Our Library was perhaps the first on the continent to experiment with the new classification prepared by the American National Library of Medicine, the best scheme for medical books. However, a decade later our medical collection was reclassified according to the R scheme of the Library of Congress, for the sake of consistency in the system.

#### **MISS SHERLOCK RESIGNS**

In August 1955, Miss Sherlock resigned as Librarian to marry Dr. H. Grayson-Smith, the head of the Department of Physics. As Chief Librarian she had developed high staff morale and maintained excellent library public relations on the campus. She was recognized as an outstanding library administrator. The beautiful Rutherford Library stands as a monument to her planning.

#### **DECADE OF THE FIFTIES**

The decade of the 1950's as recorded by statistics showed a steady and healthy growth in attendance at the Library and in the use of library materials. In the autumn of 1951 the *Gateway* said editorially that the Rutherford Library

had provided more reading space than would ever be used by students. The reading areas of the Library during that first session had an uncrowded appearance, but the number of readers steadily increased until five years later the library administration was giving thought to the impending shortage of reader space.

## **GRADUATE PROGRAM**

About 1957 the University began to offer graduate classes in various disciplines. The number and variety of graduate research programs steadily expanded and had a profound effect upon the development of the Library. Prior to this revolution, the Library had thought of its book stock as a good up-to-date collection for the use of undergraduate students, but with the introduction of graduate work the Library came under pressure to accelerate its rate of acquisition to meet the ever-increasing needs of the university's graduate program.

## **BOOK FUND**

As stated earlier, the book fund was derived from a library fee levied on students. In the immediate post-war years, with the great influx of veterans, with the shortage of books caused by wartime dislocation of the publishing industry, and with the lack of library space in which to put books, a large reserve fund was built up. After the opening of the Rutherford Library this reserve fund was drawn upon each year to supplement the revenue raised by student fees. In 1953 the Library Sub-Committee presented a brief to the Board of Governors pointing out the necessity of a larger book fund. The response of the Board was to increase the library fee from \$5.00 to \$8.00 per student. The fee system still did not raise enough money, but it continued to be the main source of the book fund until 1958-59. After that year the book fund was presented as a major item in the library budget.

At the end of World War II the book fund was \$6,758. The following year, 1946-47, it doubled to \$14,884. In 1954-55 it reached \$30,000. In successive years it went up as follows: \$35,000, \$54,000, \$66,000, \$100,000, \$162,000, \$210,000, \$250,000, \$370,000, \$410,000.

The number of accessioned books added during the first half of the decade averaged 9,000 each year. Between 1957-58 and 1963-64 the annual acquisitions went up as follows: 11,716; 14,938; 21,771; 26,034; 34,739; 40,312; 49,577. Over the same period the Library added each year a larger number of documents, over 24,000 in 1963-64, and increasing quantities of micromaterials.

## **PHYSICAL SCIENCES READING ROOM**

At the end of the decade of the Fifties a new Chemistry Mathematics Physics complex was opened. These teaching



Cameron Library was completed September 1963.



The D. E. Cameron Library was officially opened on May 28, 1964 by Mrs. D. E. Cameron and her son, Dr. Donald F. Cameron.



Main entrance and lobby,  
Cameron Library.

In 1968 the North Laboratory  
was demolished to provide  
space for the construction of  
the north wing of Cameron  
Library.



departments agitated for a branch library in the building. At a special meeting of the Library Committee the issue was debated and when the vote was called the count was 12-12; the chairman, a chemist, cast his vote in favor of the reading room. The reading room opened in the autumn of 1961.

## **SPACE NEEDS**

In the fall of 1956, the Library Sub-Committee held seven meetings to study the space needs of the Rutherford Library over the next ten years. It is interesting to read that the Committee suggested that the book collection would increase in the decade by a minimum of 100,000 volumes, while student enrolment was expected to rise to 6,500 at the end of the period; both projections were reached in five years. The Committee recommended that two additional tiers of stacks be placed on top of the existing stack block, but an engineering report later said that the footings would not bear the extra weight. The next plan was to add a modest addition to the stack block. In 1959, the new vice-president, Dr. L. H. Cragg, suggested that the request was too modest and that the Rutherford Library building should be doubled in the near future, instead of in 1965 as originally proposed.

Floor layouts were drafted for the expanded building, which was to consist of a large rectangular core of book stacks with various reading rooms and other functions located around the perimeter. Working with the layouts, the Librarian became increasingly concerned about the problems of organization and recommended that a library consultant, Dr. Keyes D. Metcalfe, be called upon for advice. In August 1960, Dr. Metcalfe visited the campus and pointed out that the proposed expanded library would be unsatisfactory from the day it was occupied. He suggested that a new library building be started. The planning of the D. E. Cameron Library began immediately. The excavation of the site began in August 1962; the building was completed in September 1963.

## **EDUCATION LIBRARY**

The move into the library wing of the new Education Building took place before classes began in the autumn of 1963. Some years later a third floor was added to this wing. In March 1979, the Education Library was named the Herbert T. Coutts Library in recognition of the contribution the dean emeritus has made in the field of education.

## **CAMERON LIBRARY AND NEW REGULATIONS**

The Cameron Library was not available for occupancy until the third week of November. The move of library departments and the book collection was completed by December 9. This new building was officially opened on May 28, 1964. It was named the D. E. Cameron Library in honour of

the man who held the office of Librarian for nearly a quarter of a century.

The new libraries featured open stacks and easy access, in contrast to the Rutherford Library with its concentrated stack block and access limited to graduate students and faculty. A manned checkpoint was installed in the Cameron Library to ensure that books removed from the building were properly recorded by the borrower. Students were issued library identification cards for the first time. Over several years, as the number of borrowers increased, the Library had been experiencing difficulty in obtaining the prompt return of books. Therefore a fines system applicable to students was inaugurated in September. (It had been necessary to impose fines on the late return of overnight books in the Reserve Reading Room as early as 1952.)

## **ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGES**

With the opening of the Cameron Library, two new library departments were created as part of an expanded service. The establishment of an undergraduate library on the second floor of Rutherford recognized the larger number of students on campus and the danger that, with teaching departments vigorously pushing graduate programs, the needs of undergraduate students for books and service might be neglected. A Rare Book Room (later Special Collections) was opened; and Miss Dorothy Hamilton, formerly the Reference Librarian, was placed in charge. The government documents collection was given greater prominence as a special unit under the Reference Division. Two new positions were created in the administrative hierarchy, an Assistant Librarian for Public Services and one for Technical Services. The first incumbents were Mr. Sidney Harland and Mr. Donald Baird, later to be chief librarians of the Universities of Regina and Simon Fraser respectively.

## **GROWTH OF CANADIAN UNIVERSITIES**

Beginning in the late Fifties, enrolment in Canadian universities increased dramatically for a dozen years; each year the numbers of students arriving on campuses exceeded expectations. At the same time, graduate programs developed rapidly in what had heretofore been largely undergraduate institutions. Libraries, which like their parent institutions were essentially undergraduate in outlook and collections, were found wanting. Faculty, particularly new members teaching in fields of knowledge hitherto unrepresented in the curricula, agitated for aggressive acquisition policies that would build collections capable of supporting graduate and research programs. Governments and university administrators became convinced that these expanding educational programs should be supported by strong libraries; financial support became more generous. At the University of Alberta, the expansion of the Library, with

the problems arising out of too rapid growth, was typical of other Canadian academic libraries.

## ACCELERATION

In the four academic years following the opening of the Cameron Library, the acceleration in the annual acquisition of books was dramatic, from 51,991 volumes to 122,237 in 1967-68. Three years later, in 1970-71, the upward curve of acquisition reached its zenith, 142,717 accessioned volumes. Needless to say, with annual increases in workload of from 25% to 31% the technical services departments were under stress, with additional staff to be hired and trained in short order. It is to the credit of these departments that our backlog of unprocessed books never grew beyond manageable proportions.

When the half-millionth book was added in April 1966, the following table was drawn up to illustrate the Library's rate of growth in collection development.

*40 years for 1st 100,000 books*  
*10 years for 2nd 100,000 books*  
*3 years for 3rd 100,000 books*  
*2 years for 4th 100,000 books*  
*1½ years for 5th 100,000 books.*

In the four years after 1966 the collection doubled to a million volumes. On May 26, 1970, the Library added its millionth, a book that had been privately printed in 22 copies, Sir F. U. Graham's *Notes of a sporting expedition to the far west in Canada, 1847*.

## THE GOLDEN SIXTIES

The expansionist mood of academia in 1965 is enshrined in a document prepared by the Library Committee. Its primary authors were a poet with imagination and an economist accustomed to the astronomical figures in government financing. Entitled "Library requirements in the decade ahead," the report recommended a book collection of three million, exclusive of government publications and microforms, by 1976. The growth rate was to peak at 350,000 per annum. Only the head of the Department of Computing Science challenged the logistics of selecting and processing 1,500 books per work day. The Librarian, though skeptical that the collection would grow so rapidly, projected the collection size to nine million volumes by 1999, and provided the University administration with a "space needs" document. More practical action was undertaken by the Library administration in creating the position of Collections Librarian (later titled Selections Librarian) in 1965. Four years later, in an attempt to achieve greater systematization on campus, the Library appointed a Co-ordinator of Collection Development.



The millionth volume, Sir Frederick Ulrich Graham's *Notes of a sporting expedition to the far west in Canada, 1847*, was added to the Library collection in 1970.

During the sixties a notable collection was purchased by the library from the Archbishop of Salzburg.



In 1966, to speed up the acquisition of currently published books, the first large "blanket" order, or more properly speaking, dealer selection order, was inaugurated. This scheme called for Richard Abel & Co. of Portland, Oregon, to send our Library "all scholarly American books". In succeeding years other blanket orders and approval plans were placed, most notably with Blackwell's in England.

During the decade of the Sixties the Library purchased numerous subject collections. Perhaps the purchases which attracted the most attention were a collection which the Archbishop of Salzburg in Austria offered for sale because he needed \$60,000 to build a seminary, and a collection of western Americana belonging to the Robert Woods estate in Los Angeles. Librarians and historians in California literally wept when our library representative outbid them, and the Woods collection left that state for Alberta.

## STAFF SHORTAGES

A continuing theme in the Librarian's reports throughout this decade was the shortage of staff, particularly trained staff, supervisory staff, and professional librarians. With every other university library in Canada expanding at approximately the same rate, it was not surprising that many professional positions went unfilled; at times our Library has had as many as a dozen professional positions vacant. The report for 1966-67 describes the effects of staff shortages.

*Our division heads were like army commanders who have been given objectives to reach but whose corps were below strength and mostly filled with raw recruits; they had to advance toward objectives which were unobtainable and had to suffer criticism for not reaching them. The staff problem was most acute in the Processing Departments where staff require extensive training to be effective, and where a staff shortage in one area stops the advance on another front in what by the nature of the work must be a carefully co-ordinated forward movement.*

In December 1966, the Librarian, after advertising for trained library staff in Britain, flew overseas to recruit. At Alberta House in London he interviewed three dozen respondents. Several were hired, among them a London book dealer, Mr. L.E.S. Gutteridge, whose knowledge of the trade was to be invaluable in searching for out-of-print materials.

In response to pressure from librarians in the Prairie Provinces, a new library school was opened at the University of Alberta in 1968. With the increased number of graduates in Library Science, from this school and others, our Library was finally able to fill its many vacancies. In 1969, the

Library hired 26 librarians, raising the number of professionals on staff by fifty percent. The total staff grew from 83 in 1963-64 to a high of 390 in 1970-71.

After the development of graduate studies by the University in the 1950's, students from Third World countries were attracted to the campus. The Library provided employment for the wives of some of these. It hired the wife of the first West Indian student. A member of the library staff married the first African student, the son of a leading Nigerian chieftain.

A census of staff taken in 1968 indicated that 29 languages, in addition to English, were spoken. Among the more unlikely languages represented, by at least one speaker each, were Cree, Albanian, Swahili, Gugerati and Themne.

## **LIBRARY USE**

Throughout the decade of the Sixties, external circulation increased annually by approximately 13%, until by 1970-71 it was at the million figure. Book use within library buildings closely paralleled external borrowing in numbers. The circulation system, with its interminable manual filing, was under strain—too many filers with their hands in the same filing trays.

## **AUTOMATION**

This problem of circulation control caused the Library to make its first foray into computerization in 1966. The Education Library was selected to serve as a test area. After a summer of programming and card coding, the automated circulation system went into operation in December, but deficiencies in the records of transactions were so many that the scheme had to be aborted within a month. A year later a second attempt to implement such a system had to be delayed because of electrical interference in the normal telephone lines used in the transmission of data from the central data device to the several circulation points in various buildings. This problem was solved the following April with the installation of dedicated transmission lines between the Cameron, Rutherford and Education libraries. Again in September 1968, when the automated circulation system was to become operational, testing revealed that the records produced were unreliable. Obviously the original program was defective. The painful decision was made to redevelop it. At long last, on October 15, 1969, a batch mode automated circulation system went into service, and has operated effectively since then.

Automation made possible the centralization of circulation services for the major libraries on campus. This eliminated procedural inconsistencies between the different service points, freed staff in subject libraries to concentrate on information services, and held down operational costs.

In 1971 the design and implementation of a new com-

puterized accounting system was completed. Work then began on the analysis of cataloguing procedures and acquisition details with a view to automating these processes. The computer-assisted cataloguing system went into operation on September 18, 1973; it produced cards, pocket tabs, spine labels and book circulation cards. The automated acquisitions system was inaugurated the following April. The early years of the last two systems, particularly the acquisitions one, were not without problems arising from design faults or "bugs." The Systems Division continued to work towards a more complete system of computerized cataloguing; in 1976 the Library was linked with the University of Toronto Library in order to obtain catalogue data, the so-called UTLAS system. The Library's first computer-produced listing of its 26,000 periodicals holdings, active and dormant, was printed in June 1973.

#### **REFERENCE SERVICE**

When professional librarians became more plentiful on the labour market, the Library expanded and intensified its reference services. In hiring librarians, efforts were made to recruit persons with subject specialization who could better interface with patrons in their particular discipline. Statistics on the number of questions and answers have limited meaning when evaluating reference service. However, a 1976 survey of faculty and graduate students, which included a question about reference service, indicated that 89% of respondents were happy with the level of service. More recently subject data bases have been acquired to expand the Library's reference and bibliographic services.

#### **PHYSICAL EXPANSION**

The Library added approximately 202,000 square feet of usable space between 1968 and 1973 in order to accommodate more books and readers. Enrolment in the Faculty of Education had greatly exceeded the maximum projected when the Education Library was in the planning stages, so in the autumn of 1968 a third floor of 14,000 square feet was opened. To the disappointment of the Education Library staff, most of this space had to be allocated for two years to the new School of Library Science. The same year, work commenced on a north wing to the Cameron Library. The new space, occupied by November 1969, added an additional 47,500 square feet.

#### **LAW LIBRARY**

Two years later the Faculty of Law (which since the opening of the Cameron Library had occupied the upper floor of the Rutherford Library) moved to the new Law Centre building. The Law Library, which had always been on the street-level floor of the Rutherford Library, was provided with a commodious 40,000 square feet in the Centre.

## **RUTHERFORD NORTH**

The major event of the Seventies was the erection of Rutherford II, north of the original Rutherford Library building and separated from it by a galleria. When this 100,000 square-foot building was ready for occupancy in May 1973, the humanities and social sciences collections were placed in it. A decade earlier, at the opening of the Cameron Library, the rapidity of collection growth and of student enrolment had not been foreseen. The intention had been to add wings as required to the Cameron Library, thus doubling its size. As indicated above, the north wing was added, but opposition developed to the demolition of the South Laboratory to make way for the proposed southward addition to the Library.

Meantime the University had expropriated several blocks of dwellings east of 112th Street. A first major building erected was the Humanities Centre, and the Humanities departments argued in favour of a library close by. During the planning stage the proposed library building site perambulated up and down along the east side of that portion of 112th Street now surmounted by the students' residence and mall. The campus planners finally selected a site west of 112th and in front of the Rutherford Library. In response to outcries that the attractive Georgian façade of Rutherford would disappear from view, the architect arrived at the happy solution of a galleria which not only preserves the Rutherford façade but also serves to link the old and the new Rutherford buildings.

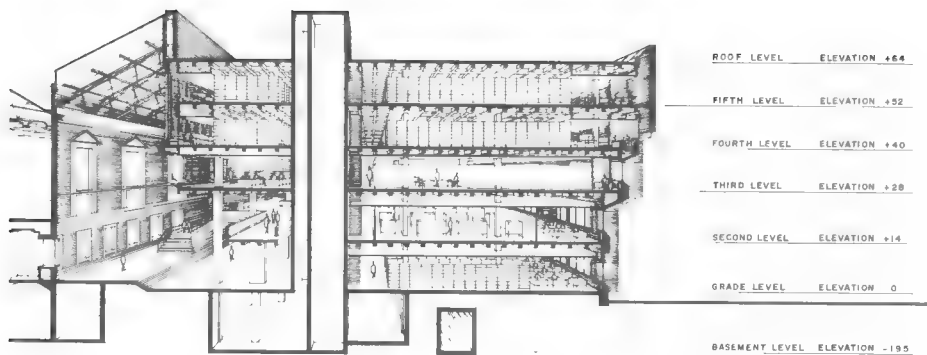
When Rutherford II was in the drafting stage, the long-term plan was that it would be the first phase of a building which would extend westward in its second phase, then northward to join up with the Cameron Library. Indeed, the second phase was to be built and ready for occupancy in 1976, but changing economic conditions may prevent this plan from ever being executed.

The "old" or south Rutherford building contains the Periodicals Reading Room for the humanities and social sciences, while the former massive reference room provides a large unsupervised study area. The building continues to house the Extension Library, and has provided homes for the University Archives and the Faculty of Library Science.

A large Health Sciences complex is in the construction stage on a site south of 87th Avenue; the Medical Sciences Library is scheduled to move from the Cameron Library in 1982.

## **ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGES**

The decade after 1966 saw a number of organizational changes within the Library, of which the following were the more major. Perhaps the most significant finding of the McCarthy Logsdon survey of January 1966 was that the Library needed a larger number of senior administrative staff to plan and direct the ambitious acquisition program pro-



This architectural drawing illustrates the connecting galleria design in linking the original Rutherford Library with the new Rutherford North Building.



University President, Dr. Harry Gunning, assisted Mrs. S. H. McCuaig, daughter of Dr. A. C. Rutherford, first premier of the province, at the opening ceremony of Rutherford North Library, September 1974.

The galleria, Rutherford Libraries.



The Rutherford Libraries, a blend of the old and the new.



posed by the Library Committee. The report recommended that in addition to the Assistant Librarians for Public and Technical Services there be an Associate Librarian. Mr. G. G. Turner was appointed to this position. In 1967, the office of the Co-ordinator of Systems Planning and Development was created. As indicated earlier, a Co-ordinator of Collection Development was appointed in 1969. A recommendation of the Mulhall Survey of 1969-70 led to the establishment of the position of Co-ordinator of Circulation Services. Miss Norma Freifield brought her years of public service experience to this position. In 1971 several administrative and housekeeping units within the Library were officially consolidated in a Division of Administrative Services. At this time the word "division" superseded "department" within the Library.

With the opening of the Rutherford North building and the relocation of the humanities and social sciences collections in it, a new organizational pattern emerged. The position of Assistant Librarian for Public Services was eliminated, and the incumbent became the Co-ordinator of the Humanities and Social Sciences Library (HaSSL) since this large division required close administrative attention.

HaSSL was composed of the collections and reference service in the Rutherford North building, the Periodicals Reading Room in Rutherford South, and the micromaterials, government publications and rare books collections, the Undergraduate Library, and the interlibrary loan service, all located in the Cameron Library. In 1974 the Periodicals Division was phased out after fourteen years, and its various activities integrated into other divisions.

A three-part review of the Library's operations was launched in the summer of 1976. One committee studied user reaction to the service, a second analyzed library tasks as to time and efficiency, while a third considered management and organization. The members of the first two committees were library staff; the third had two external members from the university community. In all, the three committees brought in 202 recommendations. During the summer of 1978 these were examined by the Advisory Committee on Library Surveys under the chairmanship of the Vice-President (Academic), Dr. Myer Horowitz.

Several basic organizational changes were implemented. The position of Assistant Librarian for Public Services was re-established. The Co-ordinator of Collection Development was made responsible to this official. The Undergraduate Library (with the Reserve Reading Room and interlibrary loan service) and Special Collections were detached from the HaSSL organization. The task of circulating books in the Education Library was returned to the jurisdiction of this library from the centralized Circulation Services.



At times the manual check out system caused many delays.



Traffic flow was improved following the installation of the first automated book check system in Rutherford North Library.

## PROFESSIONAL PARTICIPATION

The University of Alberta Library and its staff have played a role in provincial, national and international librarianship. The Library was a founding corporate member of the Canadian Library Association in 1946. Many University of Alberta librarians have been active in committee work and have held offices in the association and its sections. This Library is better represented numerically than any other at the annual conferences of the Canadian Library Association. In recognition of the prestige of our Library, its chief administrative officer has been invited to occupy some of the highest positions in Canadian library associations and to be a member of important library surveys and studies. The "Standards for Canadian University Libraries," which attracted attention in international library circles, was drafted by a group of our librarians in 1964. Many staff members have held office and been active in, in addition to the national association, several other professional associations. The Library was invited to join the Association of Research Libraries in 1969. The invitation to join with the seventy largest and most prestigious libraries on the continent was an indication that the Library of the University of Alberta had come of age as a research library.

## CHANGING UNIVERSITY CLIMATE

In Canada, the university climate changed with the opening of the decade of the Seventies; student enrolments reached plateaux or actually declined, and provincial governments were less generous with grants to universities. The Library administration has had to reassess priorities and introduce economies. The number of academic staff decreased by attrition between 1971-72 and 1975-76 from 83 to 79, the support staff from 310 to 283.

At the beginning of the fiscal year 1973-74 the Library's unexpended (but committed) portion of the book budget for the previous year, \$450,000, was used to balance the parent institution's budget; the effect on the Library was to create a deficit which resulted in fewer acquisitions for the next two years. The decrease in annual book accessions from the high of 142,717 in 1970-71 was as follows:

|         |         | <i>Decrease<br/>from 1970-71</i> |
|---------|---------|----------------------------------|
| 1971-72 | 139,116 | 2.5%                             |
| 1972-73 | 128,244 | 10.1%                            |
| 1973-74 | 107,590 | 24.6%                            |
| 1974-75 | 79,611  | 44.2%                            |
| 1975-76 | 90,088  | 36.9%.                           |

In 1973 the Library undertook a survey of priorities in the acquisition of materials, and a revalidation of continuation orders; in consequence 2,000 of the 17,000 periodical subscriptions were cancelled. The cost of fixed commitments

(subscriptions, standing orders, approval plans, etc.) accounted for 80% of the materials budget by 1977. With less money for discretionary buying, one trend has been an increase in the purchase of microforms; the Library now holds 1,166,375.

In the last years of the Seventies the problem of maintaining a viable collection has worsened. Inflation has become rampant and worldwide; since a Canadian academic library buys upward to 95% of its materials abroad, the economics of major publishing countries are of concern. Even more critical has been the disparity between the Canadian and American dollars, and between the American and strong European currencies. Beginning in February 1977 and continuing for two years, the Canadian dollar declined until it was worth 80.5 cents American on February 5, 1979. The result has been that, with inflation, the cost of American books increased in an eighteen-month period by approximately 30%, and European by about 40%. Fortunately, in November 1978 the provincial government took cognizance of the crisis facing academic libraries in the maintenance of collections; the government provided \$9,000,000 from the Heritage Trust Fund for universities and colleges, to be spent over three years on library materials.

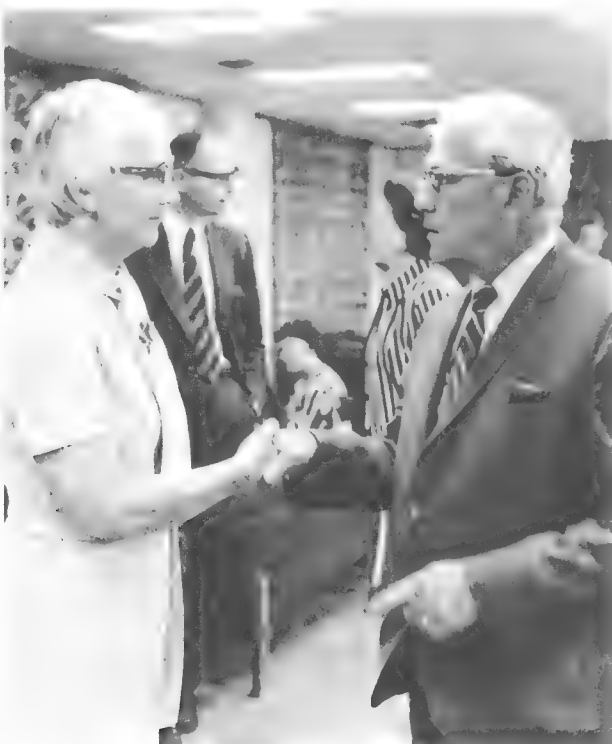
As the Library completes its seventieth year it is challenged by two revolutionary developments. First is the declaration of the Library of Congress that on January 1, 1981, it will close its card catalogue. Since this is the source of cataloguing information, most major research libraries are following suit. A major study is underway in our Library as to how this change is to be implemented, and whether cataloguing information will be in future on microfiche or maintained on-line and shown on terminals. The second major trend is the emergence of computerized library networks. Our Library is currently linked to the UTLAS network, as indicated above, and is likely to be joined to others.

## THE BUILDERS

Many people have had a part in creating a great research library. First, there were the members of the University administration who have always been supportive of the concept of our Library being a major research collection in Canada. Then there were donors, of whom Colonel and Mrs. J. H. Woods and Mrs. Orest Gonsett come to mind, and bequests from the MacCosham and Cohen estates. Perhaps no faculty member has ever been as actively involved in collection development as the late Dr. Orest Starchuk, for he, with the aid of Mrs. Gonsett, created the base on which our present strong Slavic collection was developed. Special mention must go to Miss Lilian Leversedge, who directed the acquisition program over the twenty years of rapid development of collections.



Miss Norma Freifield, Head, Circulation Services, joined the Library Staff in September 1941.



Miss Lilian Leversedge, being congratulated by former University President Dr. Walter Johns, on her retirement in 1973, after 20 years of service.



The late Miss Dorothy Hamilton held the longest record of service, from 1928 to 1969. She served successively as the Medical Librarian, Reference Librarian and then as Rare Book Librarian until her retirement.

The member who on her retirement had the longest record of service was the late Miss Dorothy Hamilton, with 38 years. Retired staff with over twenty years' service are Mrs. Marion Bacon, Miss Lilian Leversedge, and Mrs. Emma MacDonald. The Library still has the benefit of the experience and dedicated service of Miss Norma Freifield with 38 years service, Mr. Denys Noden and Miss Phyllis Russell with 25 years, and Miss Yvonne Fenton with 20 years. Several others are approaching the 20-year record: Miss Margaret Auxier, Mrs. Irene Barnes, Mrs. Hanna Bednarski, Dr. William Hyrak, Mrs. Daniella Kostiw, Mrs. Shirley Meyer, Mrs. Ivana Raletich, Mr. Allen Rankin, and Dr. Celestin Suchowersky. Mrs. Margaret Farnell first joined the staff in 1937, leaving after five years for war service; she worked part-time for another five years, rejoining the staff full-time in 1963.

Many newly arrived immigrants from Europe were attracted to the Library during the years of its rapid expansion. Their fluency in languages contributed immeasurably to the selection and processing of the materials in many languages being added to the collections.

.....

All staff who participated in the growth of our Library can take pride in their achievement. In a score of years the University of Alberta Library developed its resources from an undergraduate collection to an important research library able to support the graduate and research programs of one of Canada's major universities.



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